REMARKS

With the addition of claim 9, claims 1 to 9 are currently pending.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested based on the preceding amendments and following remarks.

I. Rejection of Claims 1 to 5 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1 to 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. 2002/0130157 issued to "Sheehan et al." .

To anticipate a claim under 35 U.S.C. § 102, a single prior art reference must identically disclose each and every claim feature. See Lindeman Machinenfabrik v. American Hoist and Derrick, 730 F.2d 1452, 1458 (Fed. Cir. 1984). If any claim feature is absent from a prior art reference, it cannot anticipate the claim. See Rowe v. Dror, 112 F.3d 473, 478 (Fed. Cir. 1997).

Claim 1 relates to a tool head for attaching an electrical conductor on a contact surface of a substrate, comprising: a vibration exciter for generating linear ultrasonic vibrations; a bonding tool adapted to contact at least one of the contact surface and the conductor, the contacting applying a contact pressure to the conductor in a direction of the contact surface via the bonding tool, the conductor being adapted to be welded onto the contact surface with the aid of ultrasonic vibrations transmitted to at least one of the contact surface and the conductor; a vibration conductor absorbing the linear ultrasonic vibrations of the vibration exciter; and a converter situated between the vibration conductor and the bonding tool to convert the linear vibrations into radial vibrations such that the bonding tool is able to be incited to one of radial vibrations and rotary vibrations about a tool axis of rotation.

Sheehan describes symmetric ultrasonic rotary horn that has a system wherein a first linear motion is converted into a second linear motion. As provided in Figure 1 as well as the accompanying description in Sheehan paragraph 22, "such that the first axial input section 14 and the first radial weld section 12 convert a portion of the first axial acoustic energy 16 into radial acoustic energy 22." In Figure 1, therefore, both the first motion (16) and also the converted motion (22) are linear. The device that converts a first motion (16) into a second motion (22) is therefore described as linear. In particular, an axis of rotation about which the converted motion takes place, according to the features of claim 1, is neither disclosed or suggested.

Sheehan furthermore provides two linear motions ,wherein the direction of movement for the axial input energy is the "Y" direction as provided by the arrow 16 in

Figure 1. the direction movement for the converted output energy is the "radial direction or X direction. In Sheehan, a linear direction is to be understood by a "radial" direction and not a direction of rotation. Sheehan furthermore specifies what is to be understood as a "radial" direction. Sheehan describes the radial direction as either in the plus or minus X direction in paragraph 29, 32 and 38. Sheehan does not disclose or suggest any capability for torsional oscillations and therefore Sheehan does not disclose or suggest the features of claim 1.

Claims 2 to 5 depend from claim 1 and therefore include all of the features of claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2 to 5 are patentable for at least the reasons provided above in relation to claim 1.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation that claims 7 and 8 are allowable. Applicants further note that claim 6 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended claim 6 to place the claim in independent form. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to claim 6.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, claims 1 to 5 are allowable. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of the present application are therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 8/4/06

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